

## WILL THERE BE RACE DISTINCTIONS IN HEAVEN?

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March 28, 2000

In Webster's Unabridged Dictionary the definition for "race" is "Any of the major biological divisions of mankind distinguished by color, texture of hair, color of skin and eyes, stature, bodily proportions, and so on." The question is, will those distinctions remain in Heaven?

There are hardly any statements in Scripture, but we go by some inferences. I will give you those few inferences.

- No. 1. Color is a distinguishing part of a person. I probably would not recognize you with another skin color. Whatever your skin color is now it will be in Heaven.
- No. 2. Revelation 7:9 is a scene in Heaven. John says, "I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, out of all nations, tribes, peoples and tongues [incidentally, I think that indicates there will be various languages in Heaven] standing before the throne and before the Lamb." The inference? John probably would not have been able to identify these without racial distinctions being evident.
- No. 3. Note that national distinctions will also be present - Revelation 21:24: "And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light." Revelation 21:12 - the twelve gates with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel - which indicates that Israel's identity will be retained.
- No. 4. Will not our present race variety avoid future monotony? I am sure that with the love of Christ in your heart you have no problem with the color distinctions. I think that will be preserved in Heaven as a part of our individual, distinctive heritage.

Question re being "like Him for we shall see Him as He is."

- A. I don't think that refers to color but to physical properties, and character. Just as He is we'll see Him, and we'll be like Him, with a resurrection body. But I doubt whether all of us will be Jewish. I don't think it refers to color and racial distinctions.

It will be interesting, won't it, to see how many of these things I have suggested will be present. You are looking forward to it, and so am I.

I want to quote a song:

WILL THERE BE RACE DISTINCTIONS IN HEAVEN? - Bishop

I dreamed I had gone to that city,  
That city where never comes night.  
And I saw the bright angels in Glory,  
I saw the fair mansions of light.

I gazed for long, long years of rapture  
On the face of my Savior so true;  
And I sang with the seraphim, "Holy."  
Then I dreamed I searched Heaven for you.

I looked on both sides of the river  
That flows through the city of God.  
I searched through bright mansions celestial,  
And streets of gold pavement I trod.

The faces of saints by the million  
I scanned, in my yearning to see  
That face I had cherished so fondly,  
The face that had grown dear to me.

I asked of ten thousand sweet angels,  
"Have you seen this beloved one, pray tell.  
Have you met in the bright courts of Heaven  
That one whom on Earth we loved well?"

They shook their heads sadly and told me  
That they had not seen you, and then  
I knew that somewhere in darkness  
You wandered, lost, lost in your sin.

I dreamed I searched Heaven for you,  
Searched vainly through Heaven for you.  
Friend, won't you prepare to meet me up there,  
Lest we should search Heaven for you.

I'm speaking to you, dear friends. Make sure of your salvation in Christ. It is free. Confess your sin, receive the gift, and Heaven is yours forever.

Prayer: Our Father, we pray for anyone who may have hesitated to accept the grace of God, the Savior who loved them and gave Himself for them. We pray that someone will yield to You today and meet us up there. Thank God. In His name. Amen.